relocation of villages from the core areas of tiger reserves to provide inviolate habitats for tiger and other wild animals.

(b) and (c) Action has also been taken for prioritizing villages for relocation from core areas of tiger reserves, based on the Phase-1 data of the refined, All India tiger estimation process and studies on tiger ethology. Initiatives have been taken for improving the relocation/rehabilitation package for giving a fair deal to people being relocated.

Regulation of pollution

1266. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one species after another is being wiped out, forest cover is dwindling and pollution is becoming a major health hazard;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering any steps to conserve species on war footing, rebuild rural forestry and empower pollution control Boards to proactively regulate pollution in order to provide clean water and air to all citizens; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY): (a) Pollution is becoming health hazard but Forest cover is not dwindling in India. There have been reports that over the past fifty years, there has been a loss in the biodiversity throughout the World.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken following measure to conserve flora and fauna of the country and to regulate the pollution:-

- Survey and inventorisation of floral and faunal resources are carried out by Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). The Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring purposes.

- A Protected Area Network of 96 National Parks, and 509 Wildlife Sanctuaries and three Conservation Reserves, covering more than 4.74% of the geographical area of the country has been created for *in-situ* conservation of habitats and ecosystems.

- Fourteen biodiversity rich areas have been designated as Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems.

- Species oriented programmes, namely, Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Project Rhino focussing on single species as well as for conserving their habitats and a variety of other species in those habitats are being implemented.

- To complement *in-situ* conservation efforts, *ex-situ* conservation has been undertaken through botanic gardens, zoos, gene banks etc.

- Biological Diversity Act 2002 has been enacted and Biological Diversity Rules 2004 have been notified, which aim at conservation of biological resources of the country and regulation of access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use.
- Notification to general and industry specific emission and effluent standard.
- Industries to obtain "Consent for Establishment" as well as "Consent to Operate" under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) prior to carrying out operations.
- Environmental Impact Assessment of developmental projects and preparation of Environmental Management Plan as per the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment notification of September, 2006.
- Adoption of cleaner technologies and use of improved fuel quality.
- Regular monitoring of industrial units for environmental compliance.
- Issuance of directions in cases of industries not complying with environmental norms.

Controlling simian population in Uttarakhand

†1267. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has an assessment conducted on simian harm to crops in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof with percentage of farmers cultivation exposed to simian harm in Uttarakhand;

(c) whether any special drive has been conducted by Government to curb increasing simian population; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps so far taken by Government to control increasing simian population in Uttarakhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. No such assessment has been made by this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As reported by the State Government, no special drive has been conducted by the Government to control increasing simian population in Uttarakhand.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.